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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 9 and 14 (b)

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: MINORITIES

Letter dated 22 March 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith*, a statement by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. I would like to ask you to have it circulated as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda items 9 and 14 (b).

(signed) Branko BRANKOVIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* The enclosure is reproduced as received, in English only.

GE.99-11668 (E)

SERBIAN GOVERNMENT ENDORSES THE STAND OF ITS DELEGATION TO THE PARIS TALKS

The Serbian Government held a session on Friday chaired by Prime Minister Mirko Marjanovic, at which it fully endorsed the stand of its delegation and of Serbian President Milan Milutinovic at the Paris talks on Serbia's Kosovo and Metohija province. The state delegation has upheld the principles and norms of international law and defended duly and in a principled manner the legitimate interests of the state and all its citizens regardless of their ethnicity, the Information Ministry said in a statement. However, the attempts to impose the US-ethnic Albanian agreement on separating a part of Serbia's and Yugoslavia's territory as a dictate constitutes an unprecedented violation of all international rules, the statement says. It clearly and openly demonstrates the intention to create a State within a State with the help of foreign troops, paving the way for discrimination of the majority of ethnic communities and for ethnic cleansing of Kosovo and Metohija of its non-ethnic Albanian population, which would lead to a gradual secession of the province and dismembering of Serbia and Yugoslavia, the statement says.

The Serbian Government most strongly condemns the NATO threats of aggression, which constitute open support to separatism and terrorism and a violation of the basic principles of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the very foundations of the international legal order, the statement says. The NATO member-states are using their alleged concern with the movements of Yugoslav defense forces in their own land to draw the attention away from the concentration of their own troops and armaments in neighbouring states and thus cover up their aggressive plans for separating a part of Serbia's and Yugoslavia's territory, the statement says. We cannot and will not allow this. We shall not give up even the smallest part of our territory or our sovereignty to anyone, the statement says. The Serbian Government, its political leadership, all parliamentary parties and the entire people are determined to defend Kosovo and Metohija, the cradle and the heart of Serbia and the foundation of its statehood, the statement says.

Serbia's authority cannot be removed from Kosovo and Metohija, nor can the province be removed from Serbia. Serbia has always defended truth, principles, European and civilizational values. Serbia strongly rejects ultimatums and threats of aggression and remains steadfast in the defense of its legitimate national interests. Serbia will not allow discrimination, secession or occupation, the statement says. Problems in Kosovo and Metohija can and must be resolved only by peaceful and political means. Serbia remains committed to dialogue and consultations aimed at finding a political settlement for autonomy and political self-rule in Kosovo and Metohija, providing guarantees of equality to all ethnic communities within the framework of Serbia's and Yugoslavia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, on the basis of the 10 principles set by the Contact Group and of the highest international standards regarding protection of human rights, and in line with the supreme laws of Serbia and Yugoslavia, the statement says. A political agreement that should guarantee equality to all ethnic communities in Kosovo and Metohija can be reached only through dialogue among legitimate

representatives of all ethnic communities and representatives of the sovereign state, the statement says. Such a political agreement must be based on clear principles and provisions for self-rule, autonomy and equality, and can be implemented only by political means, the statement concludes.

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I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith,* a statement by the President of the Republic of Serbia, Milan Milutinovic. I would like to ask you to have it circulated as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda items 9 and 14 (b).

(Signed): Branko BRANKOVIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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STATEMENT OF SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILAN MILUTINOVIC

In the Paris talks on a political agreement for resolving problems in Kosovo and metohija, the delegation of the government of the Republic of Serbia has at all times confirmed that we are for peace and for solutions that will make possible the peaceful life of all citizens in the southern Serbian province, Serbian President Milan Milutinovic said on his return to Belgrade. Our position is fully expressed in the text of the agreement signed by our delegation and which has been delivered to all the members of the Contact Group and presented to the public. Our proposed agreement is substantive autonomy. More notably, it is an autonomy which is realistic, whose institutions can live and function and which can satisfy the interests and needs of all people concerned. Viewed from legal, political, international, human standpoints - the autonomy which we are proposing will endure any objective test.

We expect that our approach, in the continuation of the political process, will be taken into consideration, since it is in full conformity with the principles of the Contact Group and guarantees the realization of solutions by peaceful, political means and in the interest of all. Our efforts will be further intensified in that respect. As for the signatures on the "Agreement" of separatist-terrorist organizations, they have initialled demands for secession. Everything was state-managed in the form of a construction of something which does not exists as a document and which had not been discussed or adopted by the Contact Group in Rambouillet or in Paris. The core of the construction was "explained" and confirmed by a statement of the delegation of separatist-terrorist organizations that their signatures were for independence, invoking the occupation of our country by NATO troops, and a referendum for secession. The statement explains the real nature of the expectations of separatists and terrorists and their western mentors.

In addition, what happened in Paris is an absurdity without precedent because one part of the international community, not only allowed a unilateral signature of a so-called "Agreement", and interference in the affairs of a sovereign state, but two ambassadors of the so-called Troika also signed unacceptable, and for the entire civilized world, aspirations of separatists and terrorists and their "rights" to summon a foreign military force to protect their demands and terrorist actions. By so doing they have neglected a basic fact, even if a joint political agreement had been reached and signed, the issue of relations with the international community regarding its implementation would be a matter between FR Yugoslavia and the international community, and not that of H. Thaqi and others. All these actions run counter basic rules of international relations. Attempts to glorify the unprecedented action makes the absurdity all the greater. All those who truly want to help a political solution should put a stop to threats, fabrications and deceitful actions and, in the continuation of the political process, change their approach, clearly define the rules, and ensure direct talks. That is the only way that can lead to a political agreement.

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